

## The simple past tense

We use the simple past tense to express actions that started and finished at a certain time in the past.

There are regular and irregular verbs.

To form the affirmative past tense of regular verbs, we add *-ed* to the base form.

*The weavers wanted to make the emperor a suit.*

Verbs ending in consonant + vowel + consonant double the last consonant and add *-ed*

*The emperor stopped the parade.*

Verbs ending in "e" add *-d*.

*The emperor decided to have a parade.*

To form the negative past tense of all verbs, we use *did not (didn't)* + the base form of the verb.

*The thieves did not use the gold thread to make the suit.*

Past tense forms are the same for all persons.

There are three different ways to pronounce the "ed" ending of regular verbs in the simple past tense:

/ id /, / t / or / d /

The pronunciation of regular past tense verbs depends on the sound at the end of the base form and whether it is voiced or not.

infinitives that end in the sounds:  
/ t / or /d/, /id/

needed hated dated seated

/ d / infinitives that end in a voiced sound:  
/b, g, j, l, m, n, r, v, z/ and after the vowels:  
/a, e, i, o, u/

lived chilled enjoyed tried

/ t / infinitives that end in an unvoiced sound:  
/ f, k, p, sh, ch, s, x /

shopped picked wished crunched

The following is a list of the most common irregular verbs.

Base Form	Simple Past Form	Base Form	Simple Past Form
be	was/were	keep	<u>kept</u>
begin	began	know	<u>knew</u>
bite	bit	learn	<u>learned</u>
blow	blew	leave	<u>left</u>
break	broke	lend	<u>lent</u>
bring	brought	lose	<u>lost</u>
build	built	make	<u>made</u>
burn	burned	mean	<u>meant</u>
buy	bought	meet	<u>met</u>
can	could	pay	<u>paid</u>
catch	caught	put	<u>put</u>
choose	chose	read	<u>read</u>
come	came	ride	<u>rode</u>
cost	cost	ring	<u>rang</u>
cut	cut	run	<u>ran</u>
do	did	say	<u>said</u>
draw	drew	see	<u>saw</u>
dream	dreamed	sell	<u>sold</u>
drink	drank	send	<u>sent</u>
drive	drove	shoot	<u>shot</u>
eat	ate	shut	<u>shut</u>
fall	fell	sing	<u>sang</u>
feed	fed	sit	<u>sat</u>
feel	felt	sleep	<u>slept</u>
fight	fought	smell	<u>smelled</u>
find	found	speak	<u>spoke</u>
forget	forgot	spend	<u>spent</u>
freeze	froze	stand	<u>stood</u>
get	got	steal	<u>stole</u>
give	gave	swim	<u>swam</u>
go	went	take	<u>took</u>
grow	grew	teach	<u>taught</u>
have	had	tell	<u>told</u>
hear	heard	think	<u>thought</u>
hide	hid	wake	<u>woke</u>
hit	hit	wear	<u>wore</u>
hold	held	win	<u>won</u>
hurt	hurt	write	<u>wrote</u>

Task 1: Complete the sentences using the verbs in the correct form.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) a lot of money yesterday.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (start) this project last month.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the park in the morning.
4. The couple \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to leave.

**Task 2: Use the verbs below in the correct form to complete the story.**

write    be    get    love    cover    bake    put (2)    say    prepare

Last week, Kate (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a cake for Sally's birthday party. Sally wanted a strawberry cake with pink frosting. Kate (2) \_\_\_\_\_ happy to bake it. She (3) \_\_\_\_\_ the pink frosting and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the cake with it. Then she (5) \_\_\_\_\_ Sally's name on top. She also (6) \_\_\_\_\_ seven candles on the cake.

On Sunday, Kate surprised Sally with the strawberry cake. She (7) \_\_\_\_\_ it in a beautiful box. Sally (8) \_\_\_\_\_ her cake! She (9) \_\_\_\_\_ many presents for her birthday, but she (10) \_\_\_\_\_ her cake was the best gift of them all!